



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) – Workshop scheduled for Monterey – The State Water Resources Control Board has notified those discharging stormwater and other wastewater to ASBS that these flows must be terminated unless the dischargers apply for and receive an exception to the Ocean Plan. Maintaining an exception is expected to require extensive monitoring, including analysis of impacts on marine species, as well as evidence that the discharge is not affecting “natural” water quality. In addition, documentation under CEQA will be needed. This initiative has been supported by environmental organizations, but is controversial since preventing stormwater discharges to ASBS is prohibitively expensive in many cases and compliance with exception requirements may not be possible. Recently Board staff has suggested that a statewide exception could possibly be granted for storm water discharges.

Discharger concerns with the ASBS initiative have been raised at past Board meetings and the Board has agreed to hold a workshop in Monterey to address the issue. The workshop is scheduled for August 31 at the Monterey Conference Center and will include participation by two Board members. ASBS information: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plnspols/oplans/asbs.html> Workshop information may also be posted later at this web location.

Watershed Awareness – Caltrans, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection team up to post signs – The Department Transportation and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection have initiated a joint project to place signs along state highways to remind motorists of the watershed they are passing through. The intent is to raise awareness of the need for waterway stewardship regardless of location. Over the next three years, a total of 54 signs will be erected in Shasta, Trinity and Siskiyou counties, as well as the coastal counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Sonoma. Article: [requires registration] http://www1.redding.com/redd/nw_local/article/0,2232,REDD_17533_3865512,00.html

LA Stormwater Permit – County supervisors vote to continue fight – As discussed in *NewsFlash 05-16*, a Superior Court judge upheld the municipal stormwater permit issued by the Regional Board to the county and most cities within the county. The permit had been challenged by a coalition of cities and others due to alleged shortcomings including an inadequate consideration of economic and environmental impacts, and the lack of a “safe harbor” provision to protect the permittees from non-compliance lawsuits. By a 3-2 vote, the county supervisors authorized the appeal of the judge’s ruling. Posted [requires registration] <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-stormwater23jun23,1,2256027.story>

California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) - General Meeting – Friday, July 15, 9:00 AM to 3:00 P.M. Sacramento, Theme: *Pesticides & Stormwater*; also, EPA, SWRCB regulatory updates; Fee: \$40/50, payable at the door or online. <http://www.casqa.org/>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. Verify information before taking action on these bulletins. Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>